



Celebrities love UNO's student newspaper, too.

Recent paparazzi photos catch people more famous than you with the Gateway.
ENTERTAINMENT
[PAGE 5]

gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 2009

UNO's newest sport could go Division I.
Quidditch team receives offer to play in the Western Collegiate Quidditch Association.
SPORTS
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VOLUME 08 | ISSUE 45

TUESDAY | MARCH 31, 2009

AAUP award overturned, departments cut in budget

EMMANUEL GOLDSTEIN
NEWS EDITOR

In an effort to stymie the impact of the Great Recession, university officials announced a plan to cut several academic departments at UNO and UNK while maintaining the NU flagship campus, UNL.

The announcement came on the heels of a major victory for NU administrators over the UNO chapter of American Association of University Professors in an appeal filed with the Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations.

The administration won a reversal of the AAUP's salary and benefits awards. Under the new agreement reached Sunday in a closed-door Board of Regents meeting, faculty salaries will revert to their 1959 levels.

For perspective, gas cost 25 cents in 1959. The current price of a gallon of unleaded gas is \$27, following President Obama's executive order placing BP in charge of the U.S. economic crisis.

"We believe this change will permit the university to continue to move forward with a teaching campus at UNO, while allowing us to consolidate all research efforts into the new Innovation Campus in Lincoln," said NU President James B. Milliken. "Really, this situation is the best possible outcome for the university administration."

Several departments will get the ax at UNO, too, as more serious academic pursuits are transferred to Lincoln's East Campus.

No longer being offered at UNO are English, mathematics, speech, history or any classes in the College of Business Administration. The Department of Philosophy will move its classes to interim department chair William Melanson's private residence.

"This restructuring of UNO's course offerings will help us continue to uphold the great traditions of this campus' 100 year history," Chancellor John Christensen said. "In a survey of UNO students, the classes we cut are among the least popular offerings the campus used to teach. By putting students' interests first, UNO has raised the bar and set an example for the rest of the University of Nebraska system."

Not everyone agrees with the
SEE BUDGET: PAGE 8

WARNING

The newspaper you are about to read contains instances of satire and mild humor. Please proceed with extreme caution.

Rated: M for Mavericks

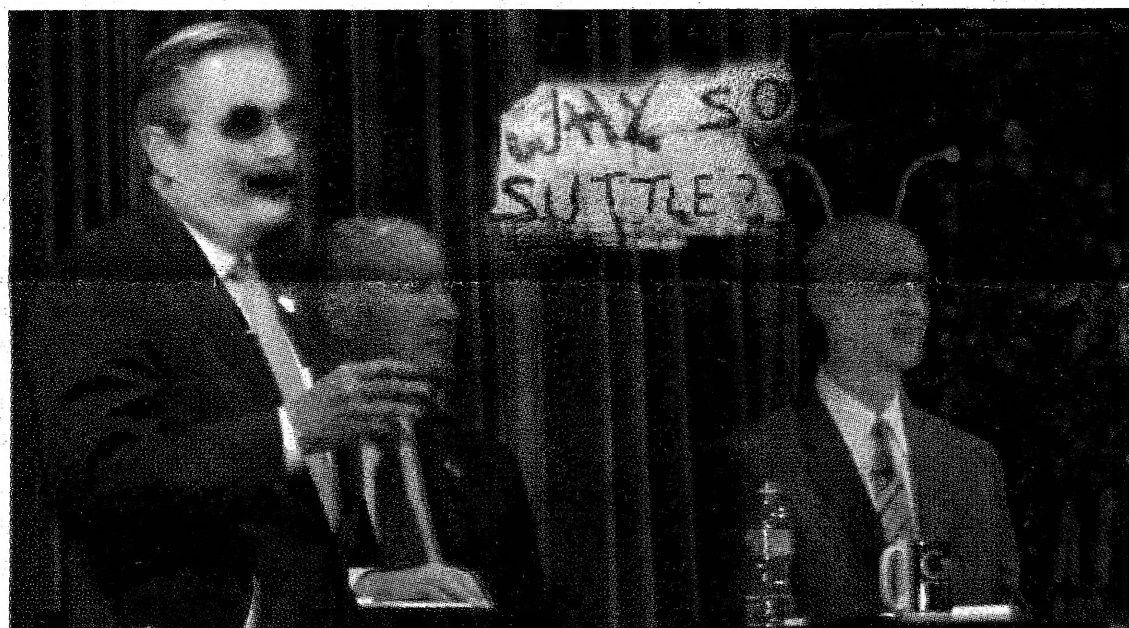
*Dr. Wade Robinson
Vice Chancellor for Censorship*

There, now if you still don't get that this is a joke issue, then we guess you can't read, so we're not worried.

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Vokal arrested in OPD sting, Daub launches subtle campaign slogan



From left to right, Hal Daub, Jim Suttle and Jim Vokal participate in a debate at the University of Nebraska Medical Center last week. (MITCH McMITCHERSON)

EMMANUEL GOLDSTEIN
NEWS EDITOR

When the Omaha Police Department formed a special task force to research illegal aliens in the metro area, the last people they expected to come under suspicion were the candidates for mayor in this year's primary.

One candidate, however, was swept up in a recent sting, which targeted several affluent members of Omaha's ruling elite.

Jim Vokal, the president of the Omaha City Council, was one of seven people arrested in Sunday's sting. Vokal was booked on suspicion of being an alien and on suspicion of animal cruelty, when a cage of rats was discovered in his possession.

The sting drew the seven suspects to Room 101 of the Omaha Hilton Hotel, where Omaha Police Chief Eric Buske and several gorilla-faced guards in black uniforms armed with jointed truncheons waited for the unsuspecting alleged aliens.

Vokal's grandparents were Czech and Irish immigrants who were lifelong workers at the Wilson Meat Packing Plant in the Omaha stockyards, according to his campaign's Web site. When asked why Vokal was wrapped up in the sting, Buske said his lineage was out of this world.

Vokal and his campaign staff were unavailable for comment.

Reacting to Vokal's arrest, mayoral candidate Hal Daub announced a new campaign slogan: "I believe in Hal Daub."

Daub reiterated his campaign promise to use federal racketeering laws to crack down on crime in the city.

"Hey, if it worked for Gotham City, it should work in Omaha," Daub said at a press conference announcing the new slogan. "Some people say the RICO Act is a huge violation of civil liberties, but the ACLU didn't donate to my campaign, so [expletive] them."

Daub also announced a proposal to expand the City Council to 12 seats, allowing major Omaha corporations to

sponsor the seats on an annual basis. Mutual of Omaha and the Papillion Royals expressed interest in participating in the auction.

On the Democratic side of the primary election, Councilman Jim Suttle said there was, in fact, something subtle about his campaign: the snubbing its received from state party officials.

In a campaign flyer sent out Monday to correct the omission of District 2 City Council candidate Ben Gray from a previous mailer, the Nebraska Democratic Party seems to have committed a faux pas. They omitted Suttle from a reminder to registered Democrats to vote in the mayoral election.

The flyer read: "Remember that when it comes to Vokal or Daub in the mayoral race, you have a choice: vote." Party officials said Suttle's name was unintentionally truncated from the reminder.

"Now I feel like a big outsider, but I still have a 'D'
SEE MAYOR: PAGE 8

Palin becomes more Mavericky, don'tcha know?

EMMANUEL GOLDSTEIN
NEWS EDITOR

Can Sarah Palin really become more Mavericky? You betcha!

Palin, governor of Alaska and former vice-presidential running mate of John McCain, announced that she would be an adjunct faculty member for UNO starting in the fall.

Under an arrangement announced by B.J. Reed, dean of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service, Palin will teach one class per semester, alternating between distance learning and in-person class sessions. Her courses will range from political science to contemporary moral problems.

Palin's fall colloquium will be Women's Studies 4050-001, Contemporary Topics in Women's Studies: Pornography and Abstinence-only Sex Education. The class is limited to 25 students, with preference given to women's studies students.

Palin will also address famous Supreme Court cases she disagrees with that pertain to women's issues as part of the colloquium.

"There's, of course in the great history of America there have been rulings, that's never going to be absolute consensus by every American," Palin told CBS News. "And there are those issues, again, like Roe v. Wade, where I believe are best held on a state level and addressed there. So you know, going through the history of America, there would be others."

Palin's been passionate about women's issues for years, addressing some of them in addition to Roe v. Wade in her interview with Katie Couric.

"You know, I'm the guy who wrote the Violence Against Women Act," Palin said. "And I said that every woman in America, if they are beaten and abused by a man, should be able to take that person to court — meaning you should be able to go to federal court and sue in federal court the man who abused you if you can prove that abuse. But they said, 'No, that a woman, there's no federal jurisdiction.'"

The last time Palin was in Omaha was during the presidential primary election, where she held a rally the Civic Auditorium and was given a Mavericks hockey T-shirt by Sarah Brumfield and Ryan Maher.

"I have to admit, though, that
SEE PALIN: PAGE 8

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NAUGHTY LOG

COMPILED BY
THE GRAND DICTATOR
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Thursday, March 19

3 p.m. While on patrol, Campus Security observed three students rolling a keg of beer into Scott Residence Hall. Further investigation discovered 20 controlled substance violations and a stripper-themed party. Seven students were referred for disciplinary action, Omaha police responded, and a donkey was taken into custody by the Nebraska Humane Society.

Saturday, March 21

8:30 a.m. Campus Security responded to a complaint of lewd activity in the Eppley Administration Building Room 202. Further investigation disclosed another stripper-themed party, located in the chancellor's office.

2:30 p.m. Campus Security received numerous calls reporting a demolition derby being held in Caniglia Field. Upon arrival, a monster truck eluded security officers, despite their best pressure-point training and nightsticks.

10:05 p.m. While patrolling Lot J, Campus Security officers came upon individuals in possession of marijuana more than an ounce, but let the suspects go with a stern warning. Individuals were students and were referred for disciplinary action.

11:11 p.m. Campus Security, does, in fact, Tase you, bro?

11:12 p.m. They Tase you again, because you just don't seem to get it.

Sunday, March 22

1:45 a.m. Campus Security was contacted by a resident assistant in Scott Village regarding an intoxicated individual bicycling on South Campus. Officers arrived on the scene and subdued the individual, later identified as Wade Robinson, associate vice chancellor for student affairs.

2:01 a.m. Security officers were called to the Student Center after viewing suspicious activity on the CCTV. Two individuals were contacted in the Gateway offices and charged with misdemeanor vandalism and overall shenanigans.



MITCH McMITCHERSON

Tuesday, March 24

10 a.m. Campus Security received calls that a person, identified later as Mitch McMitcherson, had been propositioning young males in the

Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building men's locker room. McMitcherson was arrested by Omaha police.

12:50 p.m. During a training exercise between UNL's police and Campus Security, an accidental firearm discharge caused a UNO security officer to need medical attention. Emergency crews responded and the individual was stabilized. The accident occurred when not all of the rounds were switched to rubber bullets.

Friday, March 27

9:35 a.m. Campus Security received reports of stolen cars on campus. Upon further investigation, it was disclosed that every car worth more than \$2,000 had been stolen off of campus. In total, nearly 75 cars disappeared. While stumped as to how the heist could have happened, Campus Security officials defended themselves.

"We can't be everywhere at once," said Paul Kosel, assistant manager of Campus Security.

Saturday, March 28

6:30 p.m. Campus Security is called to the Nebraska Room of the Student Center to a Pi Kappa Alpha function due to reports of underage drinking. After investigation, Omaha police were called to the scene. More than 50 minor in possession charges were made. Creighton University authorities were also contacted. One student and her dog were referred for disciplinary action.

Gateway staff will produce Monday editions of World-Herald starting next month

EMMANUEL GOLDSTEIN
NEWS EDITOR

The staff of the Gateway, UNO's official student newspaper, will be put in charge of producing the front-page sections of the Omaha World-Herald's Monday editions as part of a joint cost-cutting venture between the two publications.

The proposal was made when the World-Herald's editors realized the Tuesday issue of The Gateway often contained more staff-written news stories than the World-Herald's Monday editions.

By making the Freedom Center available to The Gateway, it will shorten the paper's production cycle, allowing the paper submitted Sunday night to hit stands Monday morning.

"In this economy, it just makes sense for news organizations to get in bed with each other," said Gateway Editor in Chief Taylor Muller. "The World-Herald is a fine publication. I would get into bed with it any day. Oh, baby."

In addition to the joint operating agreement, the World-Herald announced another round of layoffs, which include firing anyone who ever wrote for The Gateway.

Publisher Terry Kroeger said it was just a coincidence, but fortunately the World-Herald often passed up Gateway writers for contributors to the Daily Nebraskan, so the move doesn't affect that many employees.

Former World-Herald editorial cartoonist Jeff Koterba was among those included in the layoffs. He said he was planning to go fulfill his life's dream of drawing cartoons with chalk in the Old Market.

"Living on the street isn't so bad," Koterba said. "Half of the World-Herald employees are already spending their weekends wandering aimlessly around West Omaha to save money on hotel fees - I mean rent."

Calling all entertainment writers

Do you write for Andrea Barbe? Do you think she's mean in her e-mails to writers? If so, e-mail News Editor Scott Stewart to request being transferred to the Gateway's

news section mailing list. New subscribers receive a free taco with the submission of their first story.

- Emmanuel Goldstein

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ODD BUT TRUE: Professor proposes to girlfriend on book's dedication page

HYUNG LEE
THE DAILY PRINCETONIAN, PRINCETON

PRINCETON, N.J. (UWIRE) – Pirate expert Peter Leeson's new book, "The Invisible Hook: The Hidden Economics of Pirates," contained a treasure of its own.

During summer 2007, the Princeton University Press approached Leeson about a writing a book on the economics of piracy. He decided the book was the perfect opportunity to propose to his then-girlfriend, Ania Bulska, by printing the proposal on the dedication page.

"After I was approached to write the book, after a week or two, the idea hit me – I don't know how to describe it," said Leeson, an economics professor at George Mason University. "I thought it was innovative, different, perfect for her."

For the Princeton University Press, keeping Leeson's planned proposal secret presented several unfamiliar challenges, employees said.

"This is the first time I've ever seen someone propose to anyone in a book," said senior editor Seth Ditchik, who worked with Leeson on the book. "Everyone really got behind it and made sure that anything we did for the

book didn't ruin the surprise for his then-girlfriend and now fiancé."

The publishers took extra precautions to ensure Leeson's proposal went according to plan, Ditchik said. The dedication page – which reads "Ania, I love you; will you marry me?" – had to be removed from advance review copies, or galleys, so that no one else would learn of the proposal prior to publication.

"When we were preparing the galleys, we had an 'aha' moment because someone might pick up on it," Press assistant publicity director Jessica Pellien said in an e-mail. "I've never had to ... deliberately excerpt [that] portion of the book from the galley."

Pellien noted that the foreword also had to be excluded from the galleys, since in it, Leeson explained why he included the proposal in his book:

"Several people besides me were critical to writing this book," according to the book. "First and most important is my girlfriend, Ania Bulska ... In this book's

dedication I ask her to marry me. If I've succeeded in hiding my plans from her since writing this, she should be very surprised. I hope she says 'yes.' If she doesn't, I might have to turn to sea banditry, which would be tough since I don't know how to sail (though I've tried to learn)."

Despite the special care that had to be taken with the book's publication, Pellien said the outcome was well worth the extra effort.

"It's not often you come across romance while promoting economics books, so this has been a lovely and unique experience for me," Pellien said.

Leeson had the book mailed to a cigar shop near his house to keep it hidden from Bulska.

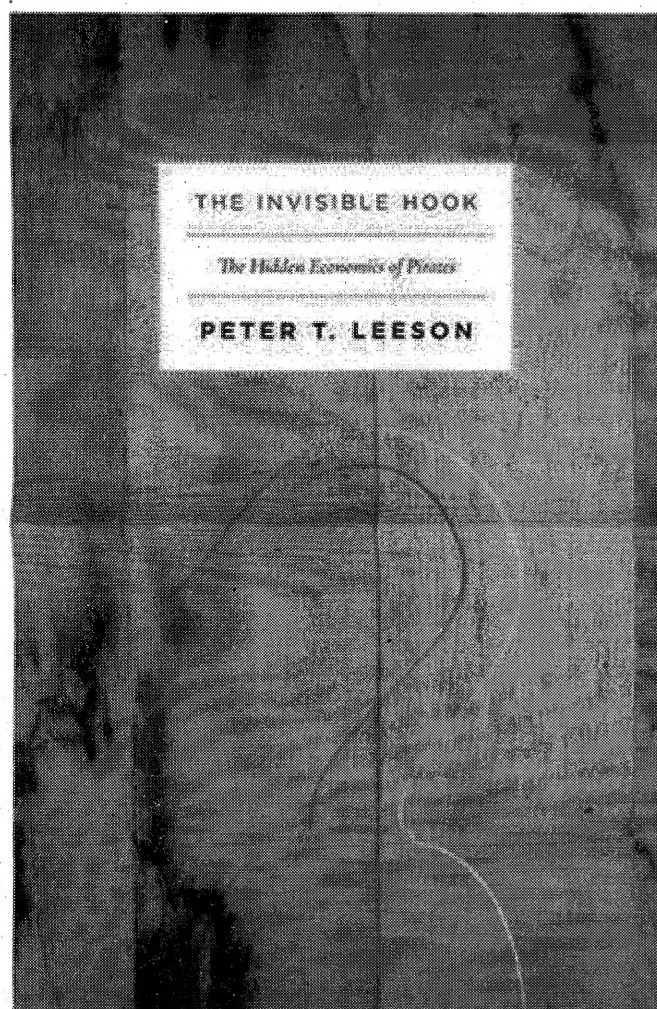
"We went to great strides to get a copy available," Pellien said, adding that the publishers sent "the first one off the press" to Leeson as soon as it was available.

On March 20, Leeson proposed to Bulska at the Washington, D.C., restaurant Citronelle. Leeson said he asked the waiters to bring a treasure chest to the table before dessert. Inside the chest was a copy of the book with a ribbon marking the dedication page.

"I gave her a key to unlock it ... for a layer of surprise. She was happy because she thought we were celebrating the book," Leeson said.

After Bulska read the dedication, Leeson opened the false bottom of the treasure chest, revealing an engagement ring.

SEE DEDICATION: PAGE 8



MITCH McMITCHERSON

Student Government dissolved by Kirkland

EMMANUEL GOLDSTEIN
NEWS EDITOR

UNO's Student Government is no more after legislation to disband the organization was passed with the support of Sen. Nathan Kirkland, who has been named co-regent with former Student Government President Neal Bonacci.

Kirkland initially intended to lead an impeachment effort against Speaker Luke Hoffman, but through aggressive use of Robert's Rules of Order taught to him by former state Sen. Ernie Chambers, Kirkland succeeded in moving to dissolve the organization.

"Most senators were confused and thought they were voting to give themselves an allowance of Girl Scout cookies," Kirkland said. "But for the cost of one thin mint cookie per student senator, we've finally rid ourselves of the curse of Student Government."

Kirkland will join Bonacci on the Board of Regents, sharing the powers of the office with him in lieu of having a legislative body on campus. Bonacci said he wasn't sure where in the constitution it discussed the office, but he trusted Kirkland's word that it was in there.

In other Student Government news:

- Caitie Wegner, president of Queers and Allies, was questioned at Thursday's meeting for wandering

SEE GOVERNMENT: PAGE 8

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Quidditch could join new conference



MITCH McMITCHERSON
BROWN EDITOR

UNO is reportedly entertaining an offer to join the highly regarded Western Collegiate Quidditch Association.

The Mavs finished a remarkable 35-1 and claimed the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association Quidditch championship in their first season of competition.

The new league, which would be a good fit geographically and offer an arguably higher level of competition, sent UNO an official application to join last week.

First-year Head Coach Mike Kemp said the terms of the deal were not official, so he declined to add any more fuel to the fire.

"I know just about as much as you do," Kemp said. "But on the other hand, we also owe the MIAA our allegiance for accepting us into their league."

Rumors on MavQuaffle.com claim that the move is a done deal. More details are expected to surface at an upcoming Quidditch Pitch Club luncheon.

The Mavs started gaining national attention after rolling over ranked opponents. UNO won its inaugural game against the University of Michigan Weasels after capturing the golden snitch just minutes into the game.

"To have UNO beat us really stings. I mean we're like God's gift to Quidditch," Weasels Head Coach Percy Weasley said. "Had this been at Yost Pitch it might have been a different story."

UNO proved that the win over the top-ranked goons was no fluke. The Mavs

crushed the Northwest Missouri State Kitty Cats on the road to kick off MIAA play. None of their foes proved to be much of a challenge as UNO completed the first perfect season in MIAA history.

But midway through the season, UNO received a scare while facing the Central Missouri Geldings. A few members of the team, including MIAA keeper of the year Jeremie Dupont, fell ill after eating lunch at a White Castle during the trip. The squad rallied around senior Logan Smith, who filled in at keeper, to win the game. Smith once played the position as a youth during a YMCA sanctioned match.

Afraid of what the toll of a long season could do to his players, Kemp scanned the other athletic teams on campus to sign a strong lad to gather broomsticks and quaffles after the matches.

Before the league roster freeze, senior Marcus Hansen was released from the men's tennis team and added to the Quidditch team.

"Marcus did an amazing job hauling all our equipment," Kemp said. "We really owe it all to him. I'm petitioning the NCAA to see if they might give him a fifth year of eligibility. I don't know who else we'd get to mix our Gatorade and bag our sticks after each game."

Entering as the top-ranked team, the Mavs charged through the opening rounds of the Quidditch World Cup. After outscoring both the

Nebraska-Kearney Bambies and the University of Iowa Pigeons, UNO set up a semifinals match against the Bowling Green Sharpies.

The contest turned into a physical match even though the Sharpies were missing several key players to suspension after a bizarre hazing incident. UNO prevailed, scribbling all over the defense to waltz into the championship match against the Minnesota State, Mankato Steers, also a member of the WCQA.

The Mavs were hoping for a rematch with the second-ranked Weasels in the finals, but Appalachian State continued their dominance over the Weasels to end Michigan's season in the first round.

UNO's lone loss was the result of a questionable call in the championship game held at Belck Pitch in front of 106,002 fans on the campus of Butler University in Indianapolis.

After much controversy, it was determined that the sinister She-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named disguised herself while performing head referee duties at the game. Likely still disgruntled for past occurrences, She-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named whistled Smith for a five-minute major bumping call as the Mavs were threatening to score.

"I don't know exactly what happened," Smith said. "I was just trying to knock the bludger away from my teammate Stevie-B and it soared wide into the crowd, almost like it was possessed."

The fourth-ranked Steers were able to capitalize on the questionable call to capture the golden snitch, thus winning the match and the World Cup.

Kemp said the university considered protesting the game, but not much can be done once play ends. UNO would have been the first team to finish the Quidditch season a perfect 36-0.

"It's water under the bridge at this point," Kemp said. "I'm proud of the team for fighting right up until the very end. But I'm also excited to get things going for next season. We've got our eyes on some top-notch recruits playing juniors in the United States Quidditch League."

The sinister She-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named failed to return repeated telephone calls from the Gateway regarding the incident.

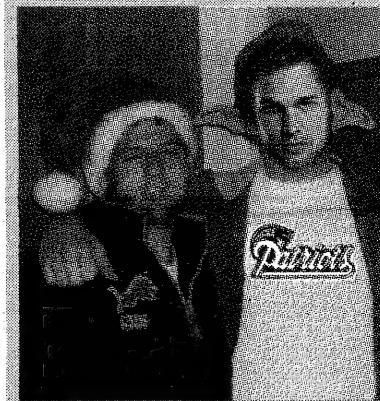
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To my dearly departed Gateway Sports Editor:

It's been a while since I've written to you, Mr. Jason Sibson. I presume that you're busy with your lucrative stripper maid service, but I hope it's going well and that your G-string is busting at the seams with \$1 bills.

After Gateway Entertainment Editor Andrea Barbe broke my heart last year, I went through a downward spiral for months. So to get over her, I had to marry that hideous "model" Gisele Bundchen. She threatened to injure my other knee if I didn't. Plus, she needed her green card, so in a weird way, it sort of worked out. I had high hopes that your sexy self would attend my wedding, but you disappointed me again, Sibson.

Even more heartbreaking than your absence was your wedding gift: a Detroit Lions jersey. Really, Sibson? You know that your beloved Lions finished their season 0-16 and that it was the worst record in NFL history, right? Even the Bengals won more games than the Lions and they're pretty much the worst team in the NFL. At least they used to be. The Lions are now the biggest losers in the league.



MITCH McMITCHERSON/THE GATEWAY

But you shouldn't worry. I'm sending you a No. 12 New England Patriots jersey so you'll be all set for the fall.

Sibson, I really miss playing Dr. Mario with you for hours and kicking your butt. You never could figure out where those pills go. You should probably stick to stripping and having a big wiener.

But, I regret not being able to make it to your Halloween party last year. I would have paid to see you not talk all night. I get excited just thinking about it.

I really miss my little Sibby-boo. Give me a call sometime, Jason. We can talk about sports, since I see you still clearly don't know anything about it. I love you. K. Thanks. Bye.

Your favorite "playa,"
Tommy Brady

P.S. - Wanna go grab it?

Ticket sales for UNO's quidditch games have sky-rocketed, outpacing all other sports combined.
(MITCH McMITCHERSON/THE GATEWAY)

Want to make sure your stories actually get read?

Hate Tacos? Don't write for Scott Stewart!
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Write for Andrea Barbe

UNO paper newest celebrity craze

PUNK ROCK PRINCESS
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

While Omaha may be best known for its steaks and the College World Series, Hollywood A-list celebrities have found another reason to love this mid-American town: The Gateway.

For several months, Broadway star and actor Matthew Broderick can't keep his hands off of the University of Nebraska at Omaha's student newspaper. He has them sent to his homes in New York City and Malibu twice a week, Broderick's NYC housekeeper Rosie said.

"I find them in the bathroom, in the kitchen and even in the luxury garage," Rosie said. "It's ridiculous. He even has a stash of them under his bed that Sarah [Jessica Parker] doesn't even know about. He's always got one in hand and he reads those more than he reads movie scripts."

Rosie said his infatuation with the newspaper started after the New York Times gave his wife a bad review for her summer blockbuster "Sex and the City." Disheartened by the review, Broderick flew to Chicago to visit some old friends. Upon a dinner out at his favorite restaurant, Steak 'N' Shake, the "Producers" star stumbled upon a copy of the Gateway while waiting for a table. Since then, Broderick swears by the Gateway for his news, entertainment and sports needs.

"He only briefly skims through the news section," Rosie admits. "Then he lays it down on the kitchen floor for one of Sarah's yippy dogs to go number two on."

Broderick has gotten many other stars

hooked on the student paper as well. Selma Hayek, Carrot Top, Janet Reno, the Octomom, Flavor Flav, Drew Barrymore, Paris Hilton and Madonna swear by the Gateway. Even humanitarians Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are hopping on the bandwagon.

"Our oldest son Maddox reads the Gateway aloud to us before he goes to bed," Jolie said. "He particularly enjoyed the story about the Chippendales dancers and saliva being banned."

But the Jolie-Pitt home uses the paper for more than just reading.

"Last month, after Brad, Maddox and I were all done reading the paper, all three of us made a piñata out of the older issues for our daughter Zahara's birthday," Jolie added. "She is going to be so surprised and happy to rip up the sports section."

Those who work with celebrity clients are becoming addicted to the

paper, too.

"Britney Spears stayed at our hotel last year," said Hyatt Manager Mark McNasty. "And, instead of giving me a tip for carrying up her 18 pieces of Louis Vuitton luggage, she handed me a stack of papers, winked and told me to enjoy myself. I didn't know if she was being serious or just drunk."

Another way the paper has gained popularity through fan sites like ilessthanthreethethegateway.com, ran by UNO junior and Gateway aficionado Jolly Cryers.

"I'm crazy in love with the Gateway," Cryers said. "I have the Doctor John's feature and Chippendales interview framed by



MITCH McMITCHERSON/THE GATEWAY



Hollywood actor Matthew Broderick at the Steak 'N' Shake reading his favorite issue of the Gateway. (MITCH McMITCHERSON/THE GATEWAY)

my desk. Those really get my motor going. Nothing beats a good sex story."

The Gateway is not a new publication, however. It has been in production for almost 100 years. Omaha University was founded in 1908 with the Gateway not too far behind. The student newspaper printed its first issue in 1913 and has since been a staple at the

Midwestern university ever since. Over the years, the Gateway and its staff writers have won several top awards from the Nebraska Press Association including advertising design, layout and photography.

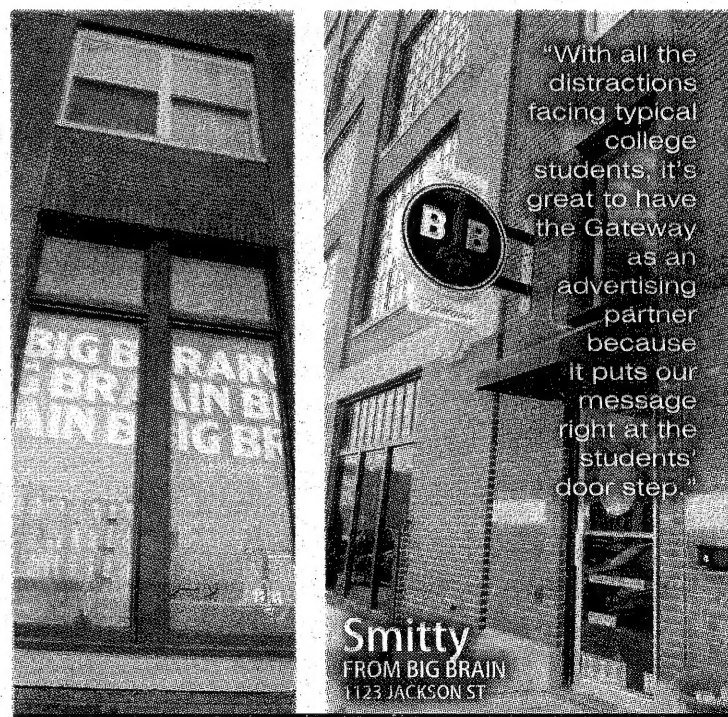
While the paper is just now gaining popularity in Hollywood, the Gateway has

SEE CRAZE: PAGE 8

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TV world mourns loss of influential hip-hop gator

HIPPIE LOVECHILD
CONTRIBUTOR

C.J., the gruff and lovable alligator who rose to national fame in the mid-80s by starring in a series of commercials for Pepsi-Cola and the Duncan Yo-Yo, died Sunday at his 15-square-mile swampland home in central Louisiana.

Long considered a fizzled-out pop culture phenomenon, the alligator had been regarded by social theorists as the gator that paved the way for future reptilian performers such as the alligator who starred in the Lubriderm commercials and the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

With a voice that came from a two-pack-a-day cigarillo habit, the pioneering alligator burst onto television screens across the country in a June 1984 Pepsi commercial. In the legendary ad, he surfed across Lake Michigan, skydived from the Eiffel Tower and spun circles on his scaly back to a funky break beat. His hip-hop-inflected catchphrase went huge overnight, appealing to both elementary school children and grandparents.

For a few months in early 1985, when NBC was running back-to-back C.J. commercials during "Must See TV," one could enter any junior high in America and hear a group of kids doing yo-yo tricks and singing, "My name is C.J. and I'm here to say; I'm the rappinest gator in the U.S.A."

The story of C.J.'s notoriety began with commercial director Randal Rizzo, an aspiring filmmaker from Glendale, Calif., who had been hired to shoot an advertisement for Pepsi that would appeal to young people without offending older consumers.

"I thought, 'This commercial needs

a funky crocodilian, a real funky crocodilian, to bridge that generation gap,'" Rizzo said.

The only logical answer was a gruff, lovable alligator who liked to surf, skydive and break dance, and who wouldn't devour the entire production crew.

From Florida to Texas, Rizzo scoured the Gulf Coast swamplands, auditioning hundreds of wild alligators. All of them had an unsettling tendency to clamp down on him with jaws that could destroy a pickup truck. In the process, Rizzo lost a leg, but failed to throw in the towel. He knew the perfect star was out there, and he was determined to find him.

Just when Rizzo was about to give up hope, a Louisiana Park Ranger told him about a talented, young

alligator who listened to Run-DMC, wore Ray-Ban sunglasses and set up a meeting between the two immediately.

"We just clicked," Rizzo said. "The park ranger dropped a beat, C.J. rapped his famous 'My name is C.J.' line, and I hired him on the spot. He was elated."

Rizzo mentioned several times during the audition, the alligator would crack his powerful jaws and flash his 75 shiny, pearly white teeth. His smile rapidly became the talk of Hollywood and is what led C.J. to the even more popular Duncan Yo-Yo commercials.

But the sun did not shine very long on C.J., a cold-blooded reptile who needed

ample amounts of sunlight to survive.

Though briefly considered for a children's movie role, the alligator's dreams were crushed when the producers decided to go with a yodeling penguin instead.

"In a lot of ways, not getting that movie deal is what ruined him," said longtime friend and confidante Rick Quickly. "Sure, he was still a famous advertising gator, but C.J. always wanted to be a movie star gator."

After losing out to an arctic bird that can't even fly, C.J. knew his days on television were numbered, Rizzo said. Sure enough, less than a year after his breakthrough, both Pepsi and Duncan canned the jive-talking reptile. From then on, friends describe a troubling descent from McGruff-inspired idol to terrifying alligator.

Soon, he began whipping his 14-foot body across the land in short but powerful bursts to seize prey, silently stalking black bears and panthers from the water until they came close enough to be caught.

In the spring, he would bellow loudly to attract a mate and then stroke her

"The park ranger dropped a beat... and I hired him on the spot."

- Rizzo

for hours until she consented to mate with him. After this prolonged breeding ritual, the female would lay her eggs above the flood level in a nest of mud and water plants while C.J. would stake out his own territory somewhere elsewhere. He became known around the swamp as the "player" and fathers warned their daughters to avoid him at all costs.

"Occasionally, he'd eat a couple of geese or a small child," Quickly said. "It was as if he was running from his own true nature. The last few times I saw him, he was just lazing around the bayou with an extremely angry look on his face. He didn't even seem to recognize me."

With C.J.'s passing, however, old friends are coming out of the woodwork to celebrate the original hip-hop alligator. A memorial service will be held Thursday at the mansion of actress Lara Flynn Boyle, C.J.'s unrequited love interest through the late 1980s.

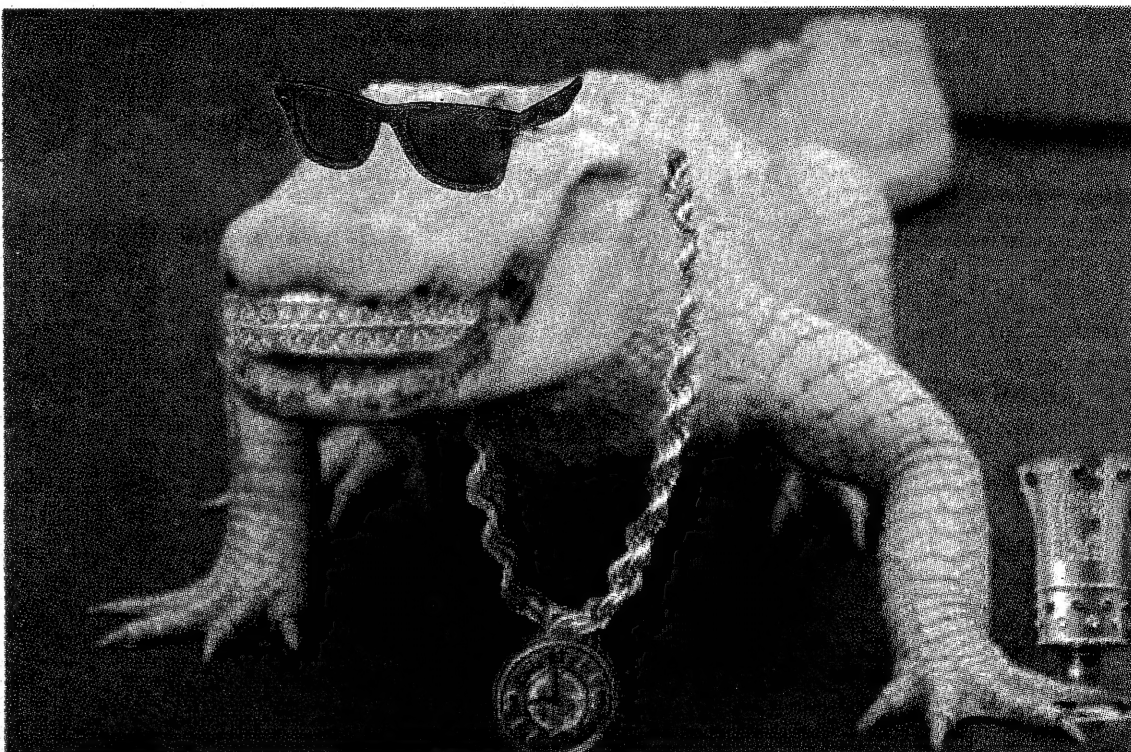
Among the reptiles he inspired to greatness, the Geico gecko and Michelangelo the Ninja Turtle will give speeches about their first encounters with the heroic gator.

C.J.'s hundreds of children could not be reached for comment.

Rizzo recalls what went through his head that fateful day in May 1984.

"The first time I saw him, I thought, 'Wrap a bow around his mighty shoulders. He's perfect!' And of course, I was right."

Gazing vacantly out his living room window, Rizzo added. "And the world wept."



Advertising mogul C.J. winning another award for his creative genius. C.J. was in the prime of his career during the 1980s and starred in several Pepsi-Cola and Duncan Yo-Yo commercials.
(MITCH McMITCHERSON/THE GATEWAY)

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NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

Free UNO's canoes



UNO's long forgotten canoes sit, gathering dust in a parking lot near the Central Utilities Plant and the Health, Physical Education and Recreation building. (THE GREAT DICTATOR/THE GATEWAY)

Passing by UNO's Central Utilities Plant one sunny spring morning, I was hardly surprised to see that the once free-flowing Maverick canoes had been abandoned by UNO and its undefeated canoeing team. Our school's competitive edge has been shot ever since Mother Nature drained the water from Elmwood Park Road. Now, all we're left with is rusty boats and the occasional former team member splashing a mess inside the Student Center bathrooms.

I propose that, instead of wasting a bunch of money converting Dodge Street into a new canoe pond, UNO should buck up and refill Elmwood Park. The benefits would be two-fold.

Not only would our canoe team have an arena up-and-running for this season's games, the pond could be used on off-days for transportation. Instead of reserving UNO's canoes for only canoe-team members, our administration should consider a canoe rental program. If the university can spring for all of these high-tech bus mobiles, you'd think they could at least throw us a paddle or two.

I'm not sure which direction is downstream, but I am positive this would make transportation to (or from) South Campus much easier. With as Elmwood

Park already sufficiently mowed for golf enthusiasts, portage routes would not have to be allocated – we could just combine the two.

Canoeing has been a staple of UNO's success since its days of conception.

Doesn't the administration know canoe enthusiasts founded the City of Omaha? Indeed, a rugged band of paddlers had just departed from Oceans of Fun when their vessels crashed into the monolithic ferryboats that dotted Omaha's coast, leading to the great spillage of free money and the development of our booming gambling market.

Besides that, former President Bush and now-President Obama were both canoers. Do you think they were just born with those shoulders?

I'm not trying to start any fights. Sure, the football team is good, and I'm psyched that the Mavs are headed to the Final Five, but there is nothing worse than seeing 20 beached canoes, stacked dry on a hilltop.

This column is a call to university officials to free the canoes, for the betterment of students and faculty. Not only would our school regain a long-lost tradition, but our economic worries would meander down the stream of outdated technologies as we embrace a revival of canal-based citadels, similar to Tenochtitlan or Venice.

Just because Elmwood Park is a wonderful place to go on a sunny afternoon, doesn't mean we shouldn't fill it with water and convert all park activities to water-park activities. Sun Dawgs? More like Mud Puppies, or Cat Fish. Either way, I haven't met anyone in Nebraska who didn't wish the state wasn't landlocked.

The bottom line is that we must do this for the UNO athletes who dream of canoeing successfully once again. And, for the children who dream of being UNO athletes in canoes, too. Finally, for Kevin Costner, who taught us that Waterworld is a frightening reality we must face or die.

A head's perspective

You students and your precious library. Do you think anyone asked me before they stuck me in this sunny room, left to fade until my stripes disappear and I am left a simple solid color? Nope, they just threw me up here and screwed me down. You heard me – I was screwed.

In fact, this is the first time anyone even asked what my opinion is. Now that I have your attention, don't expect to get it back.

When I came here, two years ago, I wasn't the bitter Untitled I am today. Sure, I was boxed up, and sure, I was screwed. But I was excited to meet all the people. Smart people. I was told, spend hours and hours in libraries. I guess someone was wrong. I do get to hang out with people who are reading or doing homework, but how smart can they really be if they never even stop to say "Hi!" to a gigantic head?

Imagine if my friends and I started our own library and screwed you into it? I know I would at least make the effort to get to know some of you.

But no. Not a voice, in more than two years, has been directed toward me. No one even touches me. What is this, a museum? I am a face and sometimes I like to be touched, too.

I guess I can't be too upset. The custodial staff makes up in love what you students dish out in neglect.

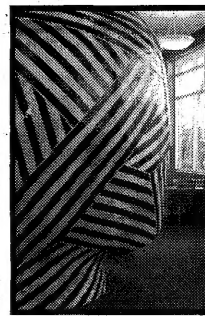
I still remember that first night, only a month or two since I had been screwed down. It was dark in the library,

and I had been crying about a boy who wouldn't talk to me. I was looking out the window, watching the cars pass down Dodge Street, when I felt a warm, smooth hand moving up my neck.

"It's alright now," a voice said. "I know you're sad, but I will dust you."

This custodian, the nicest human I've ever met, showed me the affection I

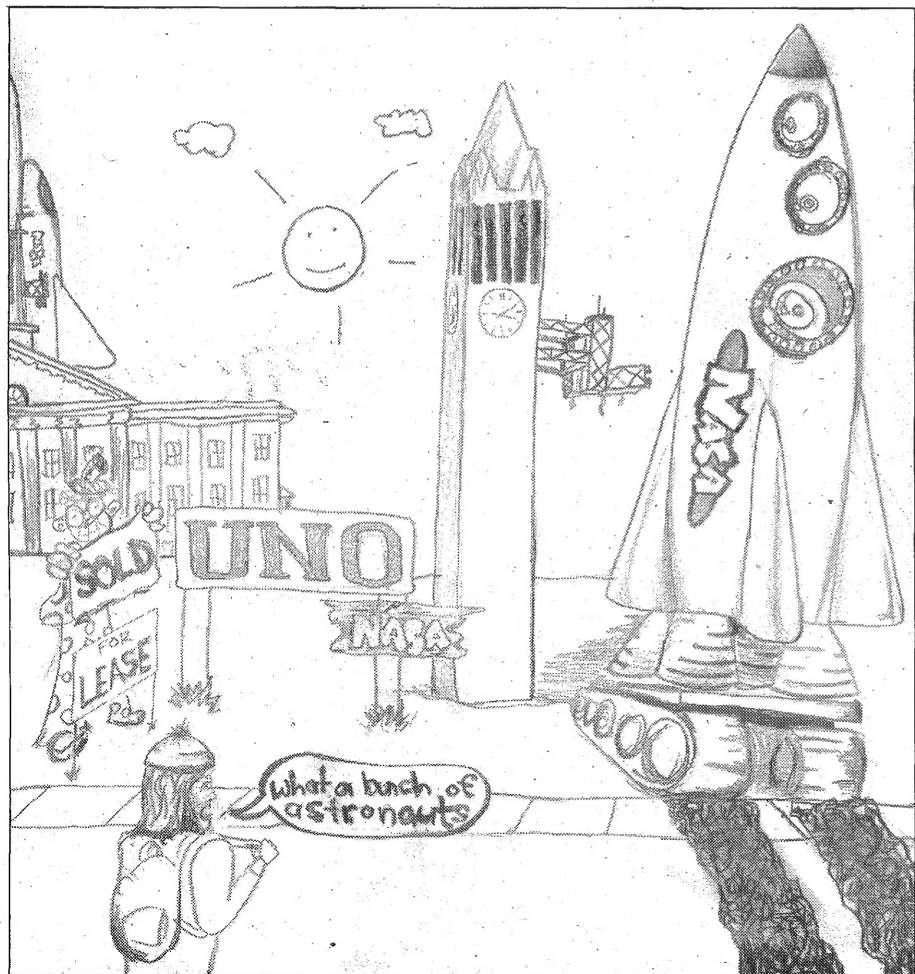
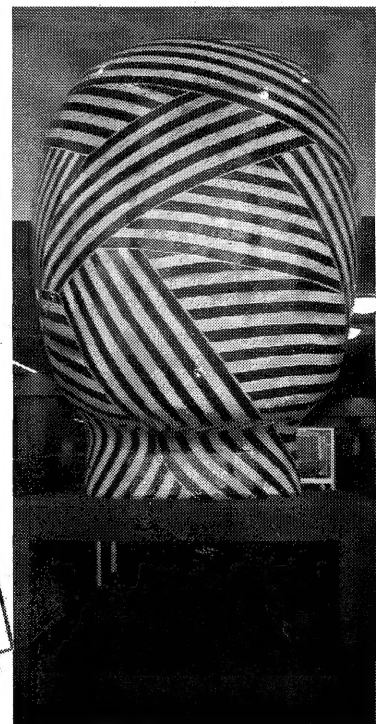
Striped Thoughts



Untitled

had longed for. I only wished that I might be loved, ever since Jun Kaneko pulled me from his hot, billowing ovens. Now I heard Kaneko built a new library in some other part of town. Sure, have one Untitled and just swing around town and have another. I bet the next Untitled will be even bigger and prettier than me.

Oh well, I guess there's nothing I can even do at this point. At least I have one friend, who will remain nameless. All I ask for is a chance. A chance to get to know each and every student in the library. If enough people like me, maybe they'll take me down from here and let me read some of these books I keep hearing so much about. Maybe, if they like me enough, they'll carry me to that other library and let me talk to that other lonely head.



FROM **BUDGET:** PAGE 1

university's decision-making process, however. Chris Allen, a former professor in the School of Communication, submitted his resignation when he heard the announcements.

"I just really think they should have given the School of Communication its own building in the reshuffling," Allen said. "John is right that nobody really needs math classes, so why couldn't our faculty have those classrooms in Durham Science Center?"

Fortunately, UNO wasn't the only campus bearing the bulk of the university budget shortfall.

UNK underwent a 95 percent reduction in spending, effective Monday morning. Faculty members are being told to teach their classes for free, and students are being cautioned that the university will support a prohibition on alcohol for the city of Kearney if enrollment drops as a result of the restructuring.

"Hey, at least they didn't cut our salaries," said Chancellor Doug Kristensen, the long-lost half-brother of Christensen. "In fact, I understand that the Board of Regents will give us chancellors another raise at their next meeting."

During that meeting, Kristensen

said, UNK students also expect to see their tuition go up 500 percent. Tuition for UNO students is expected to rise, too.

Vice Chancellor Wade Robinson told The Gateway he expects UNO students to be charged \$3000 per day in tuition, with the bulk of the money going to support the Crossroads Mall parking garage.

WTF?

The announcements of budget cuts, tuition increases and the successful resolution of the AAUP dispute may leave students, faculty and staff wondering what changed in the last couple weeks.

The answer, quite simply, is Gov. Heineman decided it was time for the university system to start contributing to society.

"As governor, I believe education should be a priority for this great state," Heineman said. "At the same time, government should be run as a business. Do businesses hand money out to each subdivision and expect nothing in return? Absolutely not. So, effective immediately, I'm ordering the University of Nebraska system to repay all the money it has received in the last five years."

Heineman went on to explain that the Unicameral would consider legislation setting a minimum profitability level for the university system. He expected the benchmark to be set somewhere between 5 percent and 25 percent.

A glimmer of hope

Following in the footsteps of Creighton University President John Schlegel, Christensen announced he and his fellow university administrators would contribute a portion of their salaries to help students impacted by the astronomical tuition increases.

Christensen has offered to personally buy every UNO student, over the age of 21, a beer from the Dundee Dell. Alternatively, students under 21 or not wishing to imbibe will be able to receive a free root beer float at Beer and Loathing in Dundee, which is also offering a special on loathing this week.

"This is a really excellent opportunity for UNO students to remember what's important about their college experience: drinking," said Nate Bock, coordinator of Alcohol and Other Drug Education, which will also be cut from the university's budget.

FROM **DEDICATION:** PAGE 3

Bulska said the proposal came as a "total surprise."

"The treasure chest came ... [and] I was like, 'What's going on?'" Bulska said. "There was more than one waiter, and someone came with a camera ... I thought, 'Oh, my God, is this happening? Is this what I think it is?'"

When Bulska saw the book inside, she thought they were celebrating the book, she said.

"He said, 'No we are celebrating more—keep reading,'" Bulska said. "I was very touched. It was very nice, and the chest was cool looking. It was legit."

Ditchik praised the originality of Leeson's proposal.

"I think that the genius of it is that I've never seen it done before, so it ups the ante for guys in the future," Ditchik said.

Bulska echoed a similar sentiment.

"Some of my friends are like, 'It's the most amazing, most romantic proposal ever.' They are taking that as the bar for proposals now," Bulska said.

Leeson said his plan initially met with some skepticism.

"One of my closest friends told me it was a horrible idea. He said, 'What if she says no? You'll be a jackass,'" Leeson said. "But I listened to my own judgment."

Ditchik noted that the book had already generated interest.

"The story of the proposal is great, but on top of it, it's the only book I've published that my mother has asked [for] a copy of," Ditchik said.

FROM **MAYOR:** PAGE 1

behind my name," Suttle said, echoing remarks made by Brown to the Omaha World-Herald.

The citywide primary will be

conducted April 7. Citizens should remember the city's new identification requirements at the polling stations, which require either a \$500 donation to the political party of your choice or

a notarized affidavit from all surviving family members, a copy of your birth certificate, a U.S. passport, a Social Security card and three additional forms of photo identification.

FROM **PALIN:** PAGE 1

I'm a little partial to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the hockey team there," Palin said at the rally. "I don't know, maybe it is just the name of the

team, which has such a nice ring to it this election year. I love that cheer: Go Mavericks."

Following her unsuccessful election bid, Palin became an avid fan

of the Mavs starting with Jan. 10 game against Northern Michigan, which she watched after hearing UNO was on the best start for a season in school history.

FROM **GOVERNMENT:** PAGE 3

around downtown Denver during a Gender and Sexual Orientation student agency conference trip;

- Jared Spence was given a student of the centennial award by Barb Treadway, director of Student Organizations and Leadership Programs, for a spaghetti dinner he held Sunday; and

- Vyacheslav Rykov, a professor of mathematics, was condemned by former Sen. Tyler Micek for giving out homework and a quiz after last week's tornado warning.

FROM **CRAZE:** PAGE 5

made itself known in and around Omaha, too.

Gangsta Boner, member of the Kansas City based rap duo Bloop Brothers, is an avid fan.

"Me and my partner Easy Allen write about issues that face us and will get people to think," Boner said. "The G-way, as we call it, has helped us branch out and helped our musical lyrics along. We're even giving those crazy writers a shout-out on our next album. We owe them some mad props."

For your own copy of the UNO Gateway newspaper, please call 554-2352 or visit its Web site at unogateway.com

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EVENTS

The Heartland Roundup is a Weekend of Recovery. April 24, 25, and 26th. There will be workshops, speakers, karaoke, banquet, raffle, fun and fellowship. This powerful weekend is sponsored by members of Omaha's GLBT, AA and Al-Anon Community. It will be held at the Regency Lodge 909 S. 107th Ave. Discounts for registrations received before April 10th. Scholarships available. For information or to attend call Chuck at 558-3589 or email cvrana@levi.com You can also register online at: www.Heartlandroundup.org

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